

from last year's 130-year high. The lake naturally discharges into Stump Lake to the east at level 1447 feet, and into the Tolna Coulee and Sheyenne River at elevation 1459 feet.

Given the USGS conclusions that the wet conditions which have dominated the region since 1977 will continue for at least another decade, it is not unreasonable to assume the lake will rise to the breakout level of 1459 feet.

What happens then?

USGS research suggests a spill into the Sheyenne River would be catastrophic downstream. A discharge would erode sediments in the natural drainage pathways and dump up to 2 million acre feet of water into the river, or about four times the volume of the 1997 flood at Lisbon, N.D. That incredible flood of water would be in addition to normal flows in the Sheyenne.

Opponents of a Devils Lake outlet refuse to recognize the potential of a lake breakout. Like blissful Pollyannas, they don't believe the worst can happen.

It can. If wet conditions persist and nothing is done to control the lake's level, it will.

USGS also says a properly managed outlet would moderate the effects of a catastrophic natural lake breakout. An outlet might not prevent a natural spill into the Sheyenne, but USGS believes chances of a damaging spill would be reduced. Spill volumes and durations would be reduced, thus reducing downstream damage.

An outlet remains the best option for managing the lake's level and protecting downstream interests on the Sheyenne River. The USGS report is the latest evidence supporting an outlet.

Flood prevention is better than reacting to a disaster. The permanent flood at Devils Lake has caused more than its share of personal heartache and property damage. As the lake rises—it will—the potential for disaster will rise with it. Building an outlet now at least will put in place a tool to moderate the effects of the rising water. •

#### AMERICANS FAVOR DEATH-TAX REPEAL

• Mr. KYL. Mr. President, a number of Senators who opposed the Death Tax Elimination Act have spoken on the Senate floor in recent weeks, suggesting that only a few people care about the unfairness of the tax.

During the death-tax repeal debate back in July, one of the tax's proponents went so far as to question "whose side are you on?" if you favor repeal. I have no difficulty answering that at all. We are on the side of the American people.

A June 22-25 Gallup poll found that 60 percent of the people support repeal, even though about three-quarters of those supporters do not think they will ever have to pay a death tax themselves.

A poll conducted by Zogby International on July 6 found that, given a choice between a candidate who believes that a large estate left to heirs should be taxed at a rate of 50 percent for anything over \$2 million, and a candidate who believes that the estate tax is unfair to heirs and should be eliminated, 75 percent of the people prefer the person supporting death-tax repeal.

Other polls similarly put support for repeal at between 70 and 80 percent.

Some issues are simply about fairness. It does not matter who benefits. Death-tax proponents just cannot seem to understand that, but the American people do.

The American people have an unwavering sense of fairness. They recognize that there is something terribly wrong when, despite having taxed someone for a lifetime, the federal government can come back one more time when a person dies and take more than half of whatever is left. That is not only unfair, it threatens the American dream.

That is why repeal scores high with the American people in public-opinion polls. It is why repeal is supported by a broad coalition of small business, minority, environmental, family, and seniors organizations. Among those groups are the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the National Indian Business Association, the National Black Chamber of Commerce, the American Farm Bureau Federation, and the National Federation of Independent Business, to name just a few.

Fairness, that is what the effort to repeal the death tax is all about. •

#### LOCAL RABBI SHEDS TEARS OF JOY

• Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, Rabbi Israel Zoberman, the leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach and President of the Hampton Roads Board of Rabbis, recently offered some inspirational comments on the selection of our colleague, Senator JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN, as the Democratic Nominee for Vice President of the United States. I ask that Rabbi Zoberman's comments be printed in the RECORD.

[From the Virginian-Pilot, Aug. 28, 2000]

JEWISH CANDIDATE FOR VP: LOCAL RABBI SHEDS TEARS OF JOY

(By Rabbi Israel Zoberman)

The Jewish response to events tends to fluctuate from the extreme of elation, of mazal tov!, to the extreme of despair, of oy vey! It is no wonder since the Jewish condition poignantly reflects the tension between the two poles of the human experience; bringing about either a Messianic exaltation concerning sheer survival or a painful note acknowledging a harsh reality.

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is quoted as saying in the past that when you give a Jew optimistic news he turns pessimistic. This exaggeration by the hitherto highest ranking Jewish American, a refugee from Nazi Germany, who lacks Senator Joseph Lieberman's proud religious attachment, is rooted in Jewish caution given the trying lessons of its historical experience. It was no surprise then that upon Senator Lieberman's nomination to the National Democratic ticket, there were those Jews who felt that the ever feared specter of anti-Semitism of pre-World War II days might rear its ugly head again. However, the hardcore anti-Semites on the very fringes of society, already assert that the Jews control the world.

There were those whose first impulse was to give thanks for the "miracle" of finally removing a remaining barrier carrying much symbolism. Since American Jews have already made it in our great land, it serves as

a significant reminder that not all doors have been fully open. For most Jews, it probably was a mixed response, weighing all possible consequences to the historic act.

Who could remain neutral to Senator Lieberman's own genuine joy mingled with deep, though inclusive, religious expression, and his wife Hadassah's touching sharing of her family Holocaust background. I myself, son of survivors who spent his early childhood in a Displaced Persons Camp in Germany, was moved to tears witnessing a great American drama unfold, reaching a new high.

Indeed we have reason to rejoice in America moving closer to fulfilling its promise to all its citizens with renewed hope now that the highest offices in the land will be available to qualified minority candidates of all groups.

At this turning point, America has the curiosity and opportunity to learn more about the heritage of its fellow Jewish citizens, with its various spiritual movements, in the way that only this breakthrough event can provide. American Jews, at the same time, are poised to hopefully become more reassured about their own religious and ethnic affiliation in a country where their major challenge is not being rejected as Americans in this, our most hospitable home, but rather retaining their Jewish identity in face of unprecedented easy assimilation into the mainstream.

The possible reinvigoration of the political process because of the presently injected excitement, in spite of yet to be proved American response and maturation over the religious factor, is certainly a worthy plus. What our nation urgently needs is less apathy and more involvement by all in an environment with diminished interest in politics and an embarrassing low voting record, which ultimately are the dangers facing our democracy. Civil disagreement, too, on important issues ought to replace the evident cultural war which threatens to tear apart the precious pluralistic fabric of the enviable American quilt—with church and State separation the golden thread keeping it together. •

#### WILLIAM MAXWELL

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, William Maxwell has left us. As he once put it, an afternoon nap into eternity. Wilborn Hampton, in his wonderful obituary in The New York Times, ends with Bill wondering what he would do there where there was nothing to read!

His list of books ends with the Autobiographies of William Butler Yeats. It would be appropriate to add Yeats' account of a contemporary: "He was blessed, and had the power to bless."

He was surely such to this senior Senator. I was a ragamuffin of a lad some fifty-sixty years ago. He suggested to me that I might one day write for The New Yorker. I took the compliment with as much credence as if he had said I might one day play for the Yankees. But then, many years later, I did write for The New Yorker. He had the power to bless.

I ask that a copy of Wilborn Hampton's obituary from the August 1st edition of The New York Times be printed in the RECORD.